

**City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, December 13, 2012—7:30 AM
Community Development Conference Room**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ernie Bacon, Thomas Flagel, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Mary Pearce, Mike Plumley, Jim Roberts, Jay Sheridan, Mark Shore, Mike Skinner, Margie Thessin, J.T. Thompson, Sam Whitson

Staff Present: Amanda Hall, Lisa Clayton, Susan Coleman

Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

Minutes November 8, 2012.

Mr. Whitson moved to approve the minutes of November 8, 2012. Mr. Skinner seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Recap of 2012 Illumination Event.

Chair Sheridan stated he felt this was the best one held so far.

Mr. Huffman stated that the grid set up was great.

Mr. Roberts stated that the set up was great.

Ms. Thessin stated that the setup really fit the space and loved Ms. Pearce's idea of the children's choir.

Mr. Huffman requested to know if there were any pictures.

Chair Sheridan stated there should be some.

Ms. Hall thanked the Parks Department for all its help.

Ms. Pearce suggested the City keep the luminaries for the hospital sites when the transition occurs next year.

Discussion of 2013 Civil War Trust Park Day.

Ms. Clayton stated they were taking a look at Fort Granger again and noted the building structures on site have been torn down. Ms. Clayton stated there is a meeting next week to go ahead with the implementation of what was budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year and also what needs to be done to the site. Ms. Clayton stated most likely it will be a gravel/chert type

material for the parking area. Ms. Clayton stated during that the 2013 Civil War Trust Park Day in Franklin, instead of just cleanup, they have decided to do some planting as well, as they have had a lot of volunteers offer to come out. Ms. Clayton noted a lot of volunteers are home-schooled children.

Chair Sheridan asked when the date was.

Ms. Clayton stated April 6th.

Mr. Bacon questioned if maybe this commission should try to make a grant application to Mr. Van West's organization [Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area].

Ms. Hall stated she would need more information and what the match would be.

Ms. Pearce noted it might be more competitive with a match.

Chair Sheridan questioned Ms. Clayton on signage.

Ms. Clayton stated there are two signs equivalent to what is at Winstead Hill and Collins Farm.

Chair Sheridan questioned the fence.

Ms. Clayton stated it was a split rail like all the others and they already have it.

Mr. Gant asked what the target date was to open.

Ms. Clayton stated they planned to be completed by June 30th.

Chair Sheridan asked what this commission could do to help move forward.

Ms. Clayton stated that they have grant applications pending.

Chair Sheridan stated a Master Plan needed to be done.

Ms. Clayton stated yes, that would be a good start.

Ms. Hall stated that the City was not awarded the ABPP grant for which it applied. Ms. Hall stated they could try for another type grant.

Chair Sheridan stated the ABPP decided to not downgrade the City's priority level, so that is great.

Discussion ensued on signage, with Mr. Whitson suggesting signage be placed on 840 since it has open up further.

Mr. Huffman asked if one of the cell phone tour signs will be placed at Fort Granger.

Ms. Clayton stated yes.

Discussion of Battle of Franklin TV Show.

Ms. Clayton stated Parks has the opportunity to enhance the anniversary coming up in 2014 by shooting a few television segments about twenty minutes long with two or three guests promoting the event. Ms. Clayton stated we could go on-site and that she would be happy to draft something to bring in for the commission to review.

Mr. Bacon suggested that maybe the show could follow Ms. Thessin on one of her tours.

Ms. Pearce suggested involving honor history students from the schools by asking them to do some interviewing of guests.

Mr. Shore suggested the creation of a three-minute video to go online.

Ms. Pearce suggested the use of the video of the Unknown Soldier.

After some discussion, Ms. Clayton stated they would bring back some tangible things in January or February for further discussion.

Discussion of Civil War Trust Preservation Opportunities.

Chair Sheridan stated there was not any update on this.

Ms. Pearce asked where they were going on the idea with the City matching the money.

Mr. Skinner stated they were looking at building it into the budget.

Announcements and Other Business.

Mr. Bacon stated he wanted to pass along a suggestion from Mr. Grainger that Franklin to do a workshop for the ABPP, showing what the commission does and what the community has accomplished and that he was open to any suggestions.

Chair Sheridan questioned Ms. Pearce if we had a contact at ABPP.

Ms. Pearce stated yes, Paul Hawke and Tonya.

Mr. Bacons stated suggested inviting Ms. Gayle Hazelwood, the new chief ranger at Stone's River National Battlefield.

Ms. Pearce suggested a cocktail party and maybe a book signing for books written locally.

Mr. Bacon suggested a small working group.

Chair Sheridan stated he would entertain a motion.

Ms. Pearce moved for the BPC to form a committee to look into this and to come back with a plan to invite the American Battlefield Protection Program to Franklin to see what they have funded. Mr. Whitson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Sheridan asked for volunteers to be on the committee, and Ms. Pearce, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Roberts, and himself volunteered. Mr. Mike Grainger was also suggested to join the subcommittee.

Mr. Skinner suggested tagging it onto the BPC meetings to save on advertising meetings.

Mr. Skinner stated the bid for the Eastern Flank is \$1,026,000.

Mr. Huffman asked if there was any update on the carriages for the cannons in the square.

Mr. Whitson stated the park rangers could make a decision in the middle of 2013.

Ms. Pearce stated Franklin's Charge and Mr. Donnie Cameron will close on the Domino's land on December 20th.

Chair Sheridan asked if there was a timeline on when the public could see activity there.

Ms. Pearce stated they have 15 months with a 3-month extension to move the tenants that are currently there.

Mr. Gant asked Chair Sheridan if would like to give an update on the sesquicentennial meeting report.

Chair Sheridan stated yes, they were working on identifying locations related to the state's sesquicentennial commission's signature event, which is tentatively scheduled for December 1st-2nd.

Mr. Bacon suggested putting Chattanooga's 2013 signature event on the calendar as well and that he is envisioning a booth there to promote our 2014 event. Mr. Bacon stated it is October 11th.

Ms. Hall stated that City and Rest Haven cemeteries have both been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Acting Secretary